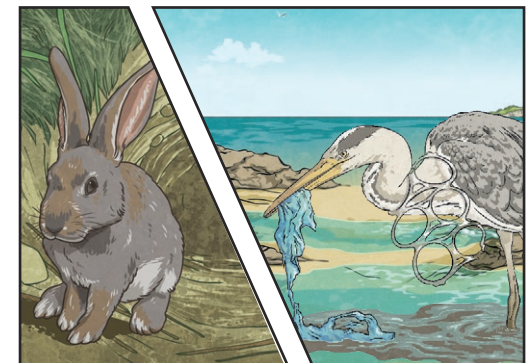## Key Vocabulary

organisms	This is another word that can be used to mean 'living things'.
life processes	The things living things do to stay alive.
respiration	A process where plants and animals use oxygen gas from the air to help turn their food into energy.
sensitivity	The way living things react to changes in their **environment**.
reproduction	The process through which young are produced.
excretion	The process by which living things get rid of waste products.
nutrition	Food which provides living things with energy to live and stay healthy.
habitat	The specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live.
environment	An **environment** contains many **habitats** and these include areas where there are both living and non-living things.
endangered species	A plant or animal where there are not many of their species left and scientists are concerned that the species may become **extinct**.
extinct	When a species has no more members alive on the planet, it is **extinct**.

Life Processes

To stay alive and healthy, all living things need certain conditions that let them carry out the seven **life processes**:

Movement	**G**rowth
Respiration	**R**eproduction
Sensitivity	**E**xcretion
	Nutrition

Changes to an **environment** can be natural or caused by humans. Changes to an **environment** can have positive as well as negative effects. Here are some examples of things that can change an **environment**.

Natural
• earthquakes
• storms
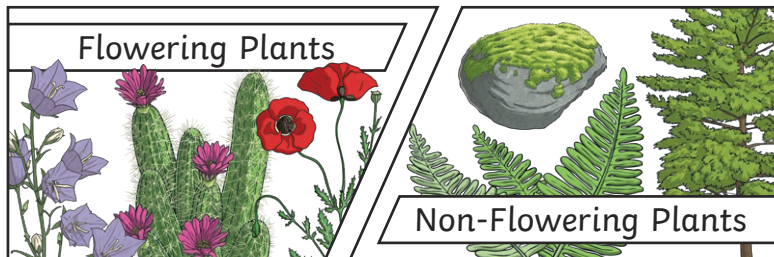• floods
• droughts
• wildfires
• the seasons

Human-Made
• deforestation
• pollution
• urbanisation
• the introduction of new animal or plant species to an **environment**
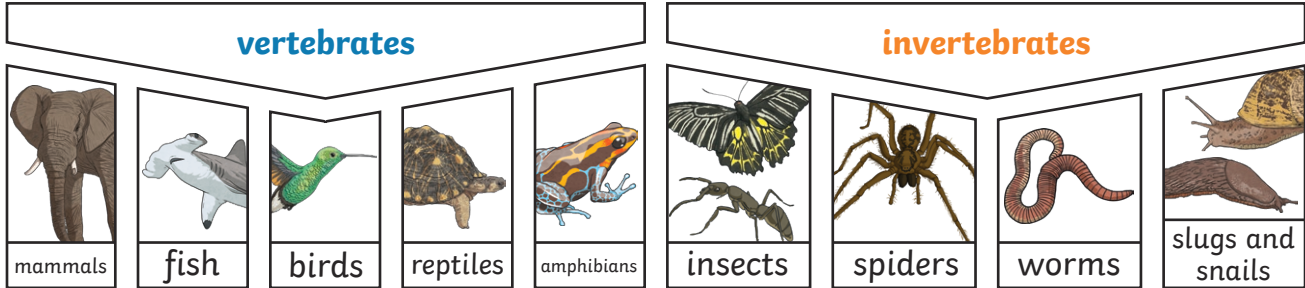• creating new nature reserves

Plants and animals rely on the **environment** to give them everything they need. Therefore, when **habitats** change, it can be very dangerous to the plants and animals that live there.

Key Vocabulary

classification	This is where plants or animals are placed into groups according to their similarities.
vertebrates	Animals with a backbone.
invertebrates	Animals without a backbone.
specimen	A particular plant or animal that scientists study to find out about its species.
characteristics	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.

Plants can be sorted into many different groups. For example:

Flowering Plants

Non-Flowering Plants

Animals can be grouped in lots of different ways based upon their **characteristics**.

vertebrates

mammals | fish | birds | reptiles | amphibians

invertebrates

insects | spiders | worms | slugs and snails

Vertebrates can be separated into five broad groups.

You can use **classification** keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things. Here is an example of a **classification** key:

You could sort **invertebrates** you might see around school in different ways, such as in this example. The vast majority of living things on the planet are **invertebrates**.

Invertebrate Classification Key

Does it have legs?

- **yes** — How many legs does it have?
  - **many legs** — Does it have an oval body?
    - **yes** — woodlouse
    - **no** — Does it have very short legs?
      - **yes** — millipede
      - **no** — centipede
  - **8 legs** — Does it have a two part body?
    - **yes** — spider
    - **no** — harvestman
  - **6 legs** — Does it have wing cases?
    - **yes** — Does it have pincers on its tail?
      - **yes** — earwig
      - **no** — beetle
    - **no** — Does it have a long, thin body?
      - **yes** — caterpillar
      - **no** — ant
- **no** — Does it have a segmented body?
  - **yes** — Does it have a long, thin body?
    - **yes** — earthworm
    - **no** — larvae
  - **no** — Does it have a shell?
    - **yes** — snail
    - **no** — slug